SALT LAKERS IN GOTHAM.

(Special Correspondence.)

New York, Dec. 5.—A new star has been made in a new play, by a new playwright, and New York is today engaged in taking a lot of credit to itself for the discovery. The actor whose work is thus recognized is a young fellow named Charles Waldron, a son of Geo. Waldron of early day Salt Lake theatricals. Very few theater goers were familiar with his name a few weeks ago. Today, everybody is talking about him. There are life-size pictures of him in front of Wallack's theater—the largest reproductions of photographs ever made; the New York newspapers are sending around to "interview" him, and Liebler & Company have agreed to star him in a new play by Hall Caine, the manuscript of which has just been received from the Shakespeare of The Isle of Man.

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A "Goddess of Liberty" company will be seen here on December 23, at Weber's Broadway theater: May de Sousa will have the title part created by Sallie Fisher at the Princess theater in Chicago. The piece is making such a decided hit in Chicago, that it was decided to put on another company here with another prima donna, as Miss Fisher is under contract to the Chicago managers until Next May; so as there was no hope of Broadway seeing the original production, a new company is formed here to give the charming musical comedy a Broadway tryout. It is regrettable that Miss Fisher will not be seen on Broadway, but contracts are contracts.

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Mrs. Edward S. Sproat, formerly Effie Dean Knappen, who is living at the "Greylochs" building on Broadway and West One Hundred and Forty-third street, has been very ill for some time with a mild case of appendicitis, but is now well again and able to be around. Mrs. Sproat will again take up her study of music this winter, more as a pleasure to herself and friends than as a profession; her husband Mr. Sproat, is well to do in the refrigerator business, and their home at upper Broadway, is a delightful place to visit.

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A very neat compliment was paid Elder L. E. Young by Prof. Seligman, head of the economical department of Columbia university, one day last week, when he asked Mr. Young to lecture on Brigham Young and the economic development of Utah. The lecture will come in its regular turn, and may not be heard until late in the winter or early spring, as time is always given lecturers in which to prepare their subjects. Mr. Young will make ample provision for this interesting subject before the body of professors and students, as he has material at hand to make an interesting talk. He will leave for Boston on Tuesday next for a two days' trip to get material for his western history work.

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At today's services, President Wm R. Dredge of the East Pennsylvania conference, was a visitor, having come over to attend the New York conference. Mr. Miles Romney of Z. C. M. I. was also present, he having been called home from here a short time ago by serious illness in his family, and having just returned to finish up his business.

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Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Meakin and their new baby were visitors at church services, the baby being blessed by President Ben E. Rich and given the name of Charles Wolcott Meakin. The little youngster is grandson of Mr. and Mrs. John P. Meakin and Mr. and Mrs. J. U. Eldredge, all of Salt Lake City; he is certainly a great credit to the houses of Pratt and Meakin. Mr. Meakin is just arrived from the west, where he has been managing the "Parisian Model" company, and is already engaged on another trip for the road.

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Friday evening Mr. and Mrs. Howard Goulding entertained a few of their friends at their new home on upper Broadway, music being the principal amusement of the evening, Mrs. Goulding and Mr. Easton singing several duets, while each rendered solos in their own delightful way.

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Mr. William McKey has accepted a part in "The Girl from Rectors," and is busy rehearsing for it; he may also take part in the Ferguson matinee, which comes off at the Waldorf Dec. 17; Mrs. McKey is still in Chicago with her aunt.

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Mr. Hamilton Park, now with the Morrison "Faust" company, is playing in Paterson, N. J., the coming week, and later goes on to Boston. Mr. Park was at church services today.

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The six-day bicycle race is on at Madison Square Garden, and the "Mormon" team is headed by Iver Lawson and Walter de Mara. This year's race is the biggest known, 17 teams having entered, and the Garden is packed day and night.

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At the Park Avenue hotel, Mr. F. Irving of Salt Lake is registered.

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Conference sesions, which began at 11 o'clock today in Newark, 3 o'clock at Hawthorne hall in New York, and 7:30 p. m. at Brooklyn, were largely attended in all three places. President Rich called on the elders of the mission, each giving a few minutes' talk. There was an abundance of singing; Frank Foster in a sacred song, Miss Elma Young, a soloist, and the new quartet we are all rejoicing in, Mrs. Beal, Miss Elma Young and Elders Dinwoody and Beatie; these, with R. C. Easton, making up a musical program of excellent merit, and combined with the fine sermon of President Rich at the close, in making an afternoon of real pleasure to all.

JANET.

SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

Among those investigators in the influence of atmospheric electricity on vegetation is Prof. Lemstroem, of the University of Helsingfors, Finland. He finds that plants in the polar regions escaping night frosts have a much more rapid and luxuriant growth than those in warmer climates, and that, despite primitive cultivation with wooden plows and harrows, great crops are yielded by rye, barley and oats. The rapid growth is usually attributed to the continuous daylight of two or three summer months. This explanation is unsatisfactory, and it has been proven that, even in these months, the aggregate of heat and light is less than at 60 degrees of latitude or farther south. Various facts have convinced Prof. Lemstroem that arctic vegetation is stimulated by the electrical currents—so often manifested in the aurora borealis—that flow between the earth and the atmosphere in the north. In the annual rings of conifers he has found variations showing extra growth in years and latitudes of great electrical activity, and in experiments with a Holtz electrical machine he has hastened the growth of barley, wheat and rye by an artificially charged atmosphere. The theory suggests an explanation of the pointed leaves of conifers and barbed ears of grain, which conduct the electric currents to these plants.

At sea level atmospheric pressure is balanced by a column of pure water 33.8 feet high, and it has seemed impossible to raise water to a greater height by a suction pump. Yet Pump Operator Alzial, on a French warship, has accomplished the feat of drawing up water from a vessel's hold to a height of 50 feet. One end of a small bent tube was passed into the bottom of the pipe attached to the pump, the other end projecting above the water in the hold, and the working pump drew air through this tube, forming an emulsion of air and water, which, having less density than water, could be raised to a greater height by pressure of the atmosphere.

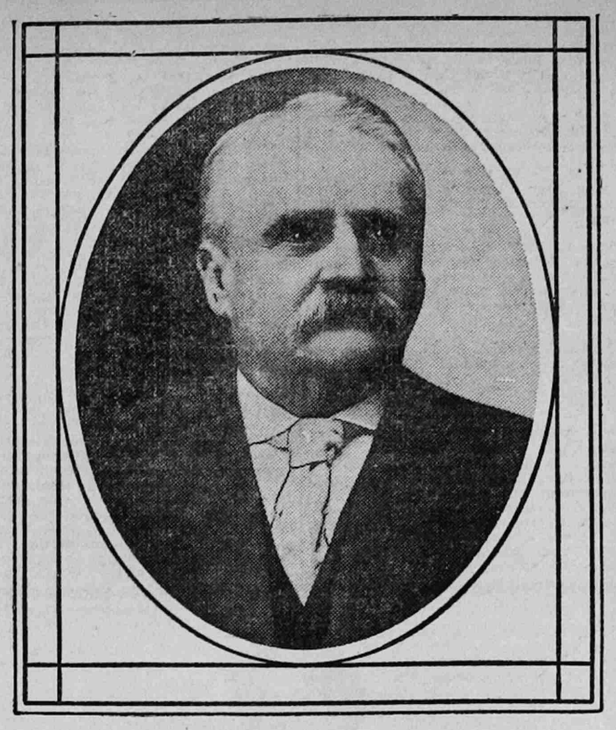
A mixture of pitch and wax, used by European organ makers as a glue substitute that resists dampness, is effective.

Resinit, a new product, is described by H. Lebach, a German, as similar to glass, celluloid and hard rubber, but superior to these and other substances for many uses. It seems to be adapted to a great variety of purposes. It differs from shellac and other natural resins, as well as from various artificial resins prepared from phenols and aldehydes, in being slow-burning, infusible, insoluble, and unaffected by acids and alkalies. A mixture of crystallized carbolic acid and a 40 per cent solution of formaldehyde is heated with potash, soda, or other alkali or neutral salt. The product is a yellowish, mobile liquid, which is an impure resinit with much water, and is adapted for impregnating porous substances, like wood and paper, to render them hard and waterproof. Distilling off the water leaves a viscous liquid, of many possible applications. When the thick liquid is heated for a certain time to 176 deg. F. and then to about 400 deg., it is changed to a glossy, vitreous solid, which is pure resinit, red, brown or yellow in color, transparent or translucent, and having a concholdal fracture. It can be dyed and cut, turned, and polished. Its great hardness and slight brittleness are unfitted for some purposes, but a more elastic and easily forked material can be had by simply mixing the pure resinit with kieselguhr, talcum or other filler.

One of the recent surprising discoveries is that of the important influence of manganese on plant growth. At the congress of applied chemistry in London, Gabriel Bertrand stated that the action varies with different soils, but in the most favorable cases may cause an increase of 40 per cent in the crop. He prefers the sulphate, at the rate of about 90 pounds to the acre. He believes that the effect is entirely catalytic, the manganese salt undergoing no change, and suggests that the salts of boron, iodine and zinc will have like effect. All kinds of plants seem to be affected.

A special coal-dust experiment station is used by the Vienna committee on fire-damp for studying mine explosions. A masonry gallery 964 feet long has an arched roof about 7 feet high, increasing slightly in height toward the outer end, and is covered with earth varying in depth from 6½ feet at the outer end to 70 feet over the explosion chamber. This chamber, forming the inner end of the gallery, is of concrete, 6 feet high, 6½ feet long, and 4½ feet wide. Racks of shelves for coal-dust are placed at intervals along the gallery, and apparatus is provided for testing measures for preventing and limiting explosions, such as wet zones, water sprays, and zones of stone dust. The flame produced by an explosion is measured by matches placed along the gallery at intervals of 40 inches. Loosely corked bottles, filled with water, are suspended bottom up about 35 feet from the explosion chamber, and strings attached to the nearest shelves draw the corks when the shelves are moved by an explosion. In this way the bottles are emptied of water, samples of gas from the explosion taking its place, ready for chemical and other examination.

Increased activity of the sun—as shown by the spots on the surface—is found by Sir Oliver Lodge to have a probable limited influence on rainfall. He points out, however, that the total rainfall all over the earth during a long period cannot exceed what the sun can evaporate in about the same period, and therefore depends more on the sun's total activity than on any momentary outburst of energy. Where rain shall fall depends chiefly on local conditions. A month of more than usual rain may result from brief special activity, but the increase will be in the customary localities, without change in distribution.



JUDGE HORACE H. LURTON.

Judge Lurton is a favorite choice for justice of the supreme court to succeed the late Rufus W. Peckham.

THE PONY EXPRESS MAIL SERVICE

Recalling the ride of 90 miles in nine hours made by General Miles and the recent 98-mile ride in 17 hours, made by President Roosevelt, the Nevada Mining News says that the real horseback riders of America were the men of the pony express, who rode between the Mississippi and the Pacific slope. According to The News, the two most famous pony riders were Johnny Moore and Bill Cody (Buffalo Bill), with the record for the most wonderful performance in pony express annals held by the latter. Cody's daily ride was from Red Butte, on the Platte, to Three Crossings, on the Sweetwater, and his schedule required him to ride 15 miles an hour, through a country filled with hostile Indians, Cody once rode from Three Crossings to Red Butte and, there being no rider at the latter place to take the budget, he continued on for another 85 miles, and then rode back to Three Crossings, covering a total distance of 322 miles on schedule time and without being out of the saddle except to change mounts. The second best record in the history of the pony express is a continuous trip of 280 miles in 14 hours and 40 minutes.

Another famous rider of the pony express was Sam Hamilton, whose schedule required him to ride between Sacramento and Fort Churchill, a distance of 185 miles, in 15 hours and 20 minutes. Part of this route was over the Sierra and on the Nevada desert.

One of the bravest of the riders was Bob Haslam, who rode daily between Fort Churchill and Smith's Creek, a distance of 120 miles. The distance was not remarkable, but the route lay through a country swarming with hostile Indians, and hardly a day went by but Haslam experienced a miraculous escape from death or capture. Indeed, the soldiers at Fort Churchill used to make a book on the chances of Haslam coming out alive, just as gamblers make a book on horse races. It is related that Haslam used frequently to bet against himself, and doubtless he was disappointed, when he arrived at the fort safe and sound and was obliged to settle his losses.

Another hardy old timer in the pony express business was Harry Richardson, who rode on the western slope through a country infested with hostiles.

The pony express mail service was established in 1860 to run between St. Joseph, Mo., and San Francisco. In those days the greater part of the mail between the east and west was sent to Panama, but as it took 22 days for a letter to go from New York to San Francisco by this route, the demand for a more rapid mail service led to the establishment of a pony express. The first pony express left on April 3, 1860, St. Joseph and San Francisco, between which places the schedule allowed eight days. The system was rather elaborate. There were 190 stations, 200 station-keepers, 200 assistant station-keepers, 80 riders and 500 horses. The company charged at first $5 for each half-ounce carried, but later this tariff was cut in half. The most notable feat in the annals of the service was the delivery of President Lincoln's inaugural address, when the trip between St. Joseph and Sacramento, a distance of 1,950 miles, was made in seven days and 17 hours.—Rochester Post-Express.

DIDN'T NEED A SELECTION.

A Kansas man tells of a music hall in a town of that state which bore the unenviable reputation of possessing absolutely the worst band anywhere. On one occasion a "headliner" from Chicago had been promised by the management for a "turn," and consequently the hall was packed to the doors. When, however, the time had come for the "headliner" to appear instead of that eagerly awaited attraction the audience was astounded to see the agitated manager come before the curtin holding a telegrm in his hand.

"Ladies and gentlemen," said he, "I very much regret to inform you that the 'Great Stewart' cannot (hisses and catcalls) possibly arrive for at least another half hour. (Great applause.) In the meantime the band will play you a selection."

At this a dead silence followed, which was finally broken by a man in the gallery.

"Smitty, Smitty," he shrieked, "don't let the band play. We'll be quiet, honest we will!"

PHOTO BY HARRIS & EWING, WASH.

BARON LIANG KUEI.

Uncle of the emperor of China, who is in this country on a special mission for his government.